

***Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Harbwr  
Porthmadog  
Harbour Consultative Committee***

*10 Mawrth / March 2010*

***Adroddiad yr Uned Morwrol – Maritime Unit Report***

***1 – Ffioedd a Thaliadau / Fees and Charges***

- 1.1* The fees and charges relating to the next financial year, 2010/11, has been forwarded to the Statutory Officers and the Portfolio Leader for approval. It is expected that the Portfolio Leader will have confirmed the fees by the end of February/beginning of March. In order to ensure that our clients are aware of the forthcoming charges, the Maritime Unit has already forwarded a copy of the draft fees and charges to all clients and the closing date for the return of Mooring Application forms was the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
- 1.2* A copy of the fees and charges relating to Porthmadog harbour is appended, and Members will note that it is recommended that the charges for those residing permanently within Gwynedd are not increased in 2010, whilst the fees and charges for those residing outside of Gwynedd be increased by **1%**. The re introduction of V.A.T to 17.5% will unfortunately incur a slight increase in costs to all users..
- 1.3* The increase in inflation for the harbours of Gwynedd for 2010/11 is forecast to be negative at -1.05%, which is based on the next Pay Award being 1%. This equates to a slight decrease in the overall Harbour Income Target of £2,600 during the next financial year. Members will be aware that the income target at Porthmadog has been achieved, or has been close to being achieved, over recent years. However, in 2009/10, it is anticipated that there will be a slight deficit in income. Given that global economic circumstances has changed of recent, action will need to be taken throughout the Maritime Unit in order to ensure that the overall expenditure, and income targets achieve their targets without compromising standards to our clients.
- 1.4* The fees and charges relating to the launching and registration of Powerboats and Personal Watercraft have not been increased for the next financial year. A copy of the fees and charges for Launching and Powerboat Registration is appended and such fees remain at standstill as has been the case for the past ten years as launching fees are at a maximum.
- 1.5* The overall increase in the income target for the Maritime Unit for 2009/10 is £9,070 which compares with an increased target of £51,020 in 2009/10. This increases the overall income target of the Maritime Unit to £2,130,970 in 2010/11.

## **2 - Cyllidebau / Budgets**

- 2.1** The financial position of Porthmadog Harbour as of the third quarter of the financial year, up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 is appended. Members will note that the income target relating to the harbour of Porthmadog for 2009/10 is £78,700, and that the total income generated to the end of December 2009 is £71,856. This is in comparison with having collected £74,280 of income during the same period last year. It is not anticipated that a significant amount of income can be generated during February and March, and therefore it is not anticipated that the income target will be reached in this financial year. The projected deficit in income for Porthmadog harbour to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 is £5,800.

As will be noted from the financial details, the expenditure to date has exceeded, or is close to exceeding the budget on a number of headings. Additional expenditure is anticipated during March, and the key financial indicators for the final quarter anticipates under expenditure of £13,300 in the Porthmadog harbour budget by the end of March. The total overall expenditure will have taken the income target into consideration. In order to support other harbours that also have a deficit in income and over expenditure, further savings will need to be made. For the whole service, it is unacceptable for expenditure to be higher than the allocated budget as any over expenditure has to be identified. Such over expenditure and under recovery places a financial burden on the Authority which is unacceptable.

- 2.2** As Members will recall, the budget heading of DG 53 12 01 (£12,270) was established in order to undertake minor improvements within the harbour such as the recently completed tender storage rack, replacement ground chains and mooring risers, and the enhancement of the harbour storage area.
- 2.3** Given the current economic climate and the requirement to identify further savings, 2010/11 will be a challenging year for the Maritime Unit, especially for harbours that fail to meet income and expenditure targets. It is emphasised that the over expenditure coupled with the deficit in income will need to be overcome, especially given the significant overall reduction in the budget available to Gwynedd Council and the savings that require to be identified in the future.

## **3. Mordwyo-angorfeydd / Navigation-moorings**

- 3.1** Whilst most Aids to Navigation leading to the harbour of Porthmadog have remained on station during the winter of 2009/10, a number of key Aids to Navigation have gone adrift and moved from their chartered position. The No Port buoy and the No 9 Starboard buoy were repositioned on station on the 5<sup>th</sup> February. It appears that there are significant changes appearing in the channel opposite Cwt Powdwr and the Maritime Unit is advising mariners to exercise caution when navigating in this area. Should the changes continue, it is most likely that the channel will deviate from its current position and will be a direct line from the inner harbour towards the Bar area.
- 3.2** The temporary winter seasonal markers that are currently on station will be brought ashore before Easter when the main navigation buoys will be replaced. The Maritime Unit did not remove any of the navigational lanterns that provides additional guidance to mariners during the winter months.

3.3 The following list provides details on the problems encountered with Aids to Navigation during the winter:-

No 1 buoy – Brought ashore for service on the 16/10/2009. Returned to position following refurbishment on the 16/10/2009.

No 4 buoy – Off station on the 23/11/2009. Returned to position following refurbishment on the 17/12/2009.

No 4 buoy – Off station on 12/02/2010. Remains Off Station.

No 5 buoy – Off station on the 12/10/2009. Returned to position on the 16/10/2009.

No 7 buoy – Off station on the 02/11/2009. Returned to position following refurbishment on the 17/12/2009.

No 13 buoy – Brought ashore for refurbishment on the 11/11/2009. Replaced with temporary Buoy.

No 14 buoy – Off station on the 20/01/2010. Remains Off Station.

Criccieth Sewer Outfall Buoy – Off Station on 18/11/2009. Remains Off Station – responsibility of Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water.

It is anticipated that all Aids to Navigation at Porthmadog harbour will be on station before the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. The Maritime Unit has obtained authorisation from Trinity House authorising for the Harbour Authority to position navigational lanterns on all Aids to Navigation.

The additional lanterns will provide further benefits to the mariner especially during the earlier and latter months of the season. It must be emphasised that the Maritime unit can not guarantee that all lanterns will be operational throughout the period as the re positioning and servicing of lanterns will be weather dependant.

3.4 All harbour moorings are currently being inspected and are being maintained by a suitably qualified contractor. This work is essential and will ensure that vessels can be secure in the harbour during the sailing season. Cyngor Gwynedd invited suitably qualified contractors to submit a quotation for the work, and the lowest quotation for combined work in Porthmadog and Pwllheli harbours amounts to a total of £5,045. The cost of mooring inspection and maintenance at Porthmadog will be £3,195. This does not include the cost of chain and anchors.

3.5 A detailed report on the condition of the moorings and on the work that is to be undertaken on each mooring will be distributed by the Maritime Officer Harbours and the Harbourmaster at the meeting. A detailed report on the work completed in January/February 2009 will also be distributed at the meeting.

3.5 The cost of mooring chain and shackles that is to be used for maintaining moorings and Aids to Navigation within the harbour of Porthmadog during the spring of 2010 is £1,460. This is significantly lower than the requirement in 2009 (£4,000) and is comparable with the average cost over recent years. In addition to the aforementioned, navigational lanterns have been required and the total cost of new lanterns was £2,526.

- 3.6 All moorings situated at the foreshore of Borth y Gest have been inspected by the Harbourmaster and it is reported that no moorings positioned on the foreshore will need to be removed this winter. The Harbourmaster will be removing moorings that have been positioned in the navigable channel in the Borth y Gest area. Moorings in this area have been identified as causing a navigational hazard.

#### **4 - Staff – Staffing**

- 4.1 A number of officers from within the Maritime and Country Parks Unit continue to remain on secondment in other areas of the service. Of recent, the Harbourmaster for Porthmadog (presently on secondment to Pwllheli Harbour) tendered his letter of resignation and will be retiring from the post on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. The Porthmadog Harbourmaster's impending retirement will be a loss to the service, and his experience and knowledge will be missed. We are confident that Members of Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee will be appreciative of the contribution made by the retiring Harbourmaster.
- 4.2 The forthcoming vacancy of Harbourmaster at Porthmadog has been advertised internally within Gwynedd Council and a short list of applicants was drafted. Interviews for the post were held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, and a new Harbourmaster has been appointed and will commence duties on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. We are also confident that Members of Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee will be appreciative of the contribution made by the present acting Harbourmaster who has been on secondment to Porthmadog for the past three years. The officer will be taking up the position of Harbourmaster at Pwllheli on secondment.

#### **5 - Pecyn Cychod Ymwelwyr – Visiting Vessel Welcome Pack**

- 5.1 At the previous meeting, Members were presented with a proposal whereby visiting vessels would be presented with a 'Welcome Pack' that contains information on harbour facilities, local amenities, tides, restaurants, emergency services etc.
- 5.2 It is expected that all visiting vessels that arrive at Porthmadog from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 will be presented with a 'Welcome Pack'. This scheme is being introduced at all harbours, and each Harbourmaster has been directed to ensure that a comprehensive and a quality 'Welcome Pack' is available. The Harbourmaster and the Maritime Officer Harbours will present the Aberdyfi 'Welcome Pack' to Members at the meeting.
- 5.3 The Harbourmaster and Maritime Officer Harbours will be providing Members with a detailed breakdown on the number, LOA and class of visiting vessels that have entered Aberdyfi harbour in 2009, and the income generated in harbour dues resulting from their visit will be made available.

#### **6 - Is Ddeddfau Harbwr - Harbour By-laws**

- 6.1 The draft By-laws for Porthmadog Harbour have been re drafted following observations and comments that had been forwarded to Cyngor Gwynedd from the Department for Transport on behalf of the Royal Yachting Association and Trinity House. In accordance with the report previously submitted before Members, amendments have been incorporated in line with the observations submitted by the aforementioned.

- 6.2 It is anticipated that a further version of the draft By-laws will be forwarded to the Department for Transport during April 2010. In accordance with Members expectations, the final draft is appended and is to be discussed by Members at the meeting.
- 6.3 Porthmadog Town Council have previously submitted observations on the correspondence received from the RYA. The comments received from the RYA were of concern to the Governing Body and it was requested that the Council consider removing By-law 42 (2) (a) and (b).
- 6.4 Porthmadog Town Council is of the opinion that By-law 42 (1) needs to be included. Members will note that it may not be possible for the amendments forwarded by the Town Council to be included within the final draft.

**7 – Offer Achub Bywyd Y Cob – Life saving Equipment on Y Cob**

- 7.1 Life saving equipment positioned on the Cob in Porthmadog is being subjected to daily acts of vandalism. Liferings are being removed from their housing on a daily basis, and the Liferings are thrown into the sea thereby rendering the equipment unusable should the equipment be required in an emergency. The Police Authority has been informed, and we are confident that Members will share the opinion that such acts of vandalism will cause concern. The Maritime Unit does not have sufficient resources available to check the life saving equipment on a daily basis, and life saving equipment could remain unchecked and missing from their position for a number of days.